

even retirement. After 6 months of steady work, Janice and her family moved from welfare to work. Janice is a story of determination. Janice is a story of hope. I salute her and an even better welfare reform bill today.

THE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORK, AND FAMILY PROMOTION ACT OF 2002

(Mr. TANCREDO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, success has 1,000 fathers and failure is an orphan. This is especially true and it comes to mind when the ex-President of the United States recently claimed credit for the passage of the Welfare Reform Act after, of course, he twice vetoed the bill. The reason that Mr. Clinton now wants to be a parent of the bill is because it works. It is wildly successful. Nearly 3 million children have been lifted from poverty and the child poverty rate is at its lowest level since 1978.

When we reaffirm the dignity of work and the reality of welfare reform, it is not about a social program, but rather it is about a job. I hope that everyone joins me today and votes for the Welfare Reform Reauthorization.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 397 and H.R. 3799

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 397 and H.R. 3799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

NECESSARY CHANGES FOR WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. CARDIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to my friends on the other side talk about the debate we are going to be having today on welfare reform. Unfortunately, the rule that the Committee on Rules is recommending will not let us have a full debate, will not let us bring up amendments to a bill that is extremely important to our States, in not only getting people off of cash assistance welfare, but getting people real jobs.

Mr. Speaker, my concern is that if we look at the Republican bill that we will be debating later, it moves backwards. If welfare has been such a success, why are we imposing new restrictions on our States? Why are we telling our States that they cannot provide education and training to the people that are on welfare today? Why is education

important for everyone in this country, except for people that happen to be on cash assistance and on welfare?

Mr. Speaker, we will have a debate on welfare today, and I hope that we will be able to make some changes in the bill that comes forward so that we all can agree that the next chapter of welfare reform should be getting people out of poverty.

CONTINUING ON THE PATH OF SUCCESS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today to encourage all of the Members of this body to vote "yes" for H.R. 4700, the Welfare Reform Reauthorization. It is important that those who need government assistance get it, and those who can work get work.

Our 1996 welfare legislation was very successful, and there is no reason why the legislation we are voting on today will not be just as successful.

A few years ago, the Republicans voted three times to pass a welfare reform bill that revolutionized the lives of welfare recipients. In the past 3 years, over 3 million children have been lifted from the depths of poverty. Former welfare recipients and their children are now achieving their independence from the welfare system. We have taken a large step in the right direction, but it is critical that we continue our progress.

The House must finish the work we started 6 years ago. Let us continue to follow the path of success and continue to help change for the better the lives of millions of people. Vote "yes" on welfare reform.

FAILURES ON THE PATH OF SUCCESS

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in the limited time that I am here this morning, I have heard a significant number of Members speak to the subject of welfare reform. In 1996, allegedly, we were supposed to move people from welfare to work. In the State of Florida that I represent, it did not work. So for all of those coming here talking about welfare reform being an unqualified success, let me suggest to my colleagues that there were some failures along the path of their alleged success.

One thing needs to be understood by this body. If we do not have child care, no matter what we do in here with reference to welfare, it is not going to work. If one does not have educational benefits, if one does not have training for people, then what we are going to do is lead people into dead-end work that leads to dead-end lives.

Enough already. We have trapped people in this program, and what we are preparing to do is to trap them even more and create that cycle.

COURAGEOUS REPUBLICANS REFORM WELFARE

(Mr. SCHROCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, before 1996, it was evident to most Americans that the welfare system was out of control and needed immediate and meaningful reform. So in 1996, the Republican-led Congress had the courage to reform welfare, making work the centerpiece for the new law, providing a hand-up, not a handout. Since then, millions of Americans have left the welfare rolls, child poverty rolls have dropped, and the poverty rate among African Americans is at a new all-time record.

Welfare reform has required millions of poor Americans to obtain employment, leading them from dependency on the government to personal independence and from low self-esteem to self-respect and self-confidence as they lifted themselves out of poverty.

Mr. Speaker, now this Congress is tasked with the reauthorization of the Welfare Reform Act. We must continue our progress by strengthening the path towards independence through work. Welfare reform has given millions of Americans a second chance at the American dream, and they are achieving it. Let us not turn back the clock on these wonderful achievements. Let us stay the course, ensuring life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans.

MOVING FORWARD WITH WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress did a very good thing: they reformed welfare and it was said at the time that it would throw children into poverty and a lot of people would be worse off than they were before.

Let us look at the figures. Mr. Speaker, 4.2 million fewer Americans live in poverty today than they did in 1996, and 2.3 million fewer children live in poverty today than in 1996.

Now, the other side of this debate says that those are the "alleged benefits." Those are not the alleged benefits; those are the facts. People are better off, everyone: children, women, minorities. We are all better off today than we were in 1996.

What it all comes down to it, we can look at individuals. There is a great story here. Tanya, a single mother, went on public assistance when her twin girls were a year old. Since completing her work with Calworks last